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The 1876-CC Twenty Cent Piece

by

Montfort A. Johnsen

The twenty cent piece is one of the shortest lived series of U.S. coins, and certainly the most ephemeral of the famous Liberty Seated designs. Business strikes were only made during 1875 and 1876. Since the coin was badly needed in the western states, both to make change and to compete with the Mexican silver peso (then worth twenty cents) it is not surprising that most were made in that part of the country. Of the total production of 1,351,540 business strikes, 85.46% were made by the San Francisco mint, 10.60% by the Carson City Mint and a paltry 3.94% by the mother mint at Philadelphia. The smallest of these issues was the production of 10,000 coins in 1876 by the Carson City Mint. Survivors of this particular coin are now prohibitively rare. In fact, the story of the 1876-CC coins is an intriguing one, still partly shrouded in mystery despite efforts to unravel the conditions that led to their manufacture and subsequent almost total destruction in the melting pot.

When production of the twenty cent coins began in MAY-1875 an almost immediate furor ensued, since the public began confusing them with the quarter, often losing money in the process. During the next year the vilification of these new issues became so intense that bank demands for them dwindled to almost nothing. The mints reacted by only producing 24,750 business strikes in 1876 — less than 1.83% of the total. None were produced in the following year, and on 2-MAY-1878 Congress passed an Act to Prohibit Coinage which marked the end of the twenty cent piece. The unwanted coins piled up in various banks and were routinely sent to the mints in exchange for Morgan Dollars and other coins. During 1895 to 1954 some 390,220 of the coins were melted, most of them during the depression in 1933, so that now all remaining twenty cent pieces are considered as scarce to rare.

Parts of the story of our 1876-CC twenty cent pieces can be found in the National Archives. The Carson City Mint records show that 133,290 twenty cent coins were minted in 1875. By 8-JAN-1876 the mint had disseminated 129,029 of them, leaving only 4,261 in the vault. With public demand for them now at a very low ebb, the mint delivered only an average of 247 coins per month from then until four months later on 8-MAY-1876. Theoretically, given this rate of attrition, the mint would have had enough coins to last until about mid-JUN-1877, thus precluding the need to make any 1876 pieces. In fact, the actual withdrawal rate was destined to further decrease, so that the supply would have lasted much longer yet.

James Crawford, the Carson City Mint Superintendent, must have recognized these circumstances since he was on the scene. He would have had little or no incentive to produce any 1876 twenty cent pieces, and reported this to H.R. Linderman, Director of the Mint, in a telegram dated 1-MAY-1876 which read, "No coinage of twenty cent pieces contemplated for this month."

At this point the record starts to blur and we must resort to a bit of conjecture. The telegram was not a routine communication; it was most likely a quick response to a request from Linderman during APR-1876 that the Carson City Mint produce 10,000 twenty cent coins in order to replenish their low inventory. We do know that Linderman was under some pressure by the silver interests in Congress to make large numbers of coins from that metal, and it would have been quite embarrassing to him if the Carson City Mint were to have run out of twenty cent pieces or any other silver denomination. Also, he had routinely sent the mint six obverse and four reverse twenty cent dies for coinage purposes in 1876.

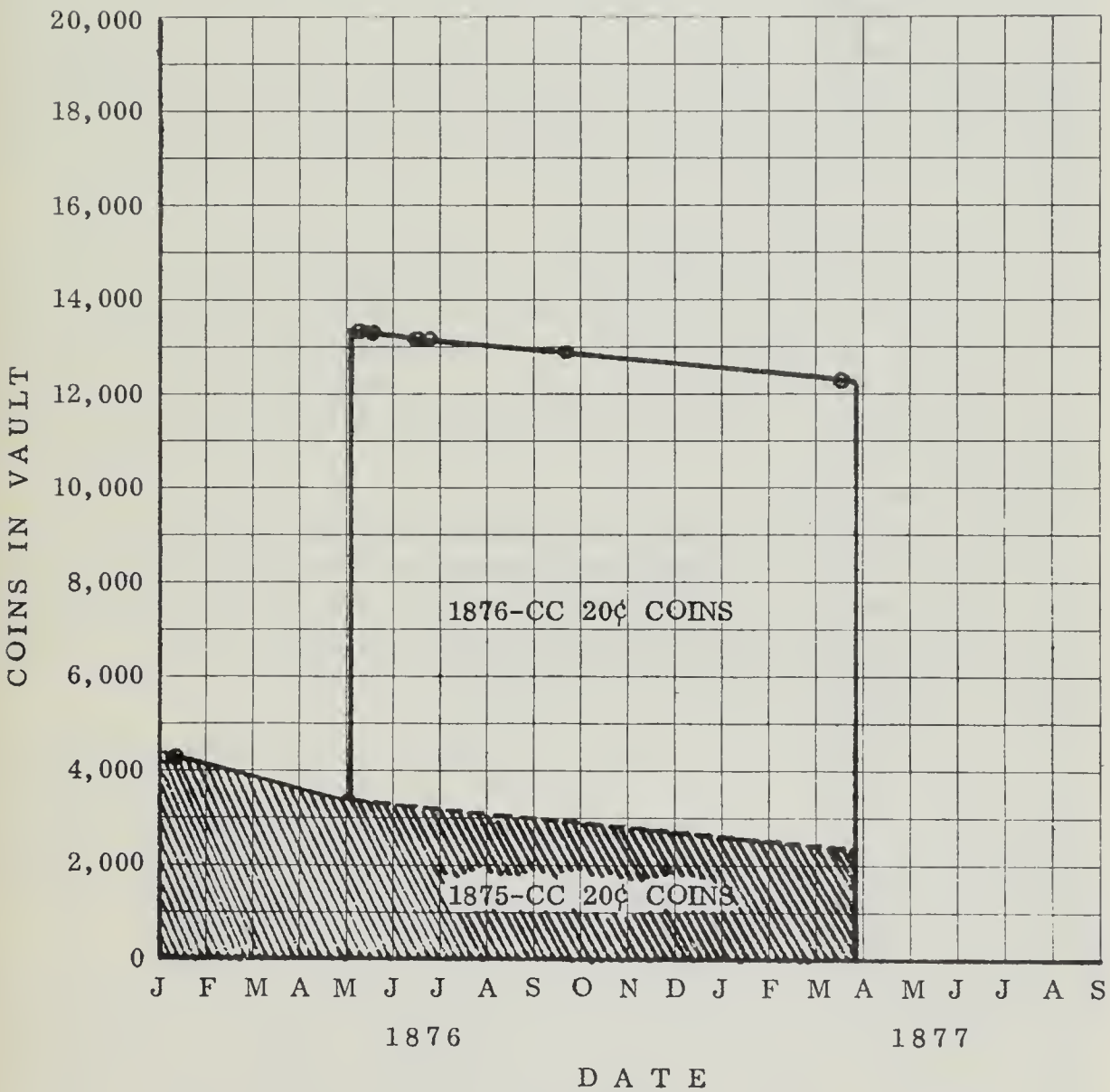
On 8-MAY-1876 (and also 15-MAY-1876) the Carson City Mint records list a total of 13,315 twenty cent coins in the vault. We do not have a date to establish when the additional 10,000 coins were minted, but it is convenient to estimate that Linderman may have responded to Crawford's telegram by directing him to produce the 10,000 coins without delay. On the other hand, it must be admitted that our evidence does not preclude the minting of the 10,000 coins at any time between 8-JAN-1876 and 8-MAY-1876. No vault inventories were recorded during this period. However, if the coins had been minted prior to 1-MAY-1876, it would be most difficult to rationalize Crawford's need to take the unusual step of sending Linderman a telegram telling him that no twenty cent productions were contemplated for MAY. The coins were probably made between 3 to 7-MAY-1876, but there is no way to be certain.

From 15-MAY-1876 on the records show a very gradual reduction in the twenty cent inventory. There were 13,160 coins on 17-JUN-1876, 13, 125 on 24-JUN-1876, 12,955 on 23-SEPT-1876 and finally 12,359 on 11-MAR-1877. Over the ten month period from 8-MAY-1876 to 11-MAY-1877 only 954 twenty cent pieces were disbursed, or an average of 95 coins per month. On 19-MAY-1877 Linderman sent a telegram to Crawford stating, "You are hereby authorized and directed to melt all the twenty cent pieces you have on hand and you will debit 'Silver Profit Fund' with any loss hereon."

Again, we cannot be sure, but Linderman's directive was probably carried out expeditiously, so that by mid- or late MAR-1877 a melting operation was conducted for the remaining twenty cent pieces. Around 12,300 to 12,350 coins would have been melted.

The accompanying graph shows the most likely course of the combination of actual and estimated mint activities with respect to the 1876-CC twenty cent piece. If we further assume that coin deliveries were made by

Inventory of 1876-CC Twenty Cent Pieces At The Carson City Mint



the mint on a "first minted - first out" basis, which is usually the case, then all the twenty cent disbursements would have been 1875-CC coins. Had the mint distributed any 1876-CC coins, they would not be as incredibly rare as they have been ever since the discovery coin came to light near the beginning of this century. At any rate, assuming only 1875-CC coins were disbursed by the mint, the running inventory of the 1875-CC issue is shown as the bottom shaded section of the graph, with the inventory of 1876-CC coins indicated in the trapezoidal box above.

The 1876-CC twenty cent piece is a first class rarity. Roy Rauch **(Gobrecht Journal,** Vol. 1/1, NOV-1974) estimates the survival of approximately twelve pieces, which is a good average between the fourteen pieces indicated in the 1960 and 1961 editions of the Yeoman **Guide Book. . .**and the nine or ten pieces mentioned about the same time in the **Standard Catalogue**. . . All are proof-like except for one XF (ex. B. Frank, about 1961), and most are deeply toned. At least three are in Gem UNC (MS-65) condition.

During the last twenty-five years or so various 1876-CC twenty cent pieces have surfaced in such sales as the Empire, Atwater, Hydeman, Jerome Kern, Frank, Miles, Century, Waldorf and Champa auctions. In 1966 the Yeoman **Guide Book. . .**prices the coin at $8,500. But in that same year the Waldorf piece sold for $12,750. This may have discouraged the editors of the **Guide Book. . .**from making any further estimations. During 1972 the Champa coin was knocked down for $24,000, and Joe Flynn advertised one for $23,900 as a result.

Later on, Scott's **Catalogue & Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins** reported a 1974 offering of a 1876-CC for $59,000, and in October of that same year Stephen Tebo advertised one for $100,000. For any coin of this caliber one must consider the possibility of counterfeits, so it is useful to note that the genuine pieces can usually be separated from fakes by the fact that LIBERTY is doubled.

The precise origin of the dozen or so 1876-CC twenty cent pieces is still a major mystery. There is no question that they were produced in the year indicated, since written requests were recorded by the mint during 1876 from collectors who had learned of the new coin and wanted to obtain examples. But how did the estimated 9 to 14 pieces get out of the mint and into the public domain?

There are at least five possibilities: One relates to the Mint Act of 12-APR-1792 and later acts, directing the Treasurer of the Mint to reserve not less than three coins from each melted mass of silver (or gold) alloy for assay purposes. Since the 1876-CC coins were in existence for slightly more than a year, it is reasonable to assume that some small number were dispatched to the Philadelphia Mint for assay, and that the required analyses would have been performed. If some 15 to 20 coins would have been normally mailed to the mother mint for this purpose, then this explanation might assume viability; otherwise it must be regarded as tenuous

and unsatisfactory. I have not been able to determine the number sent, but extra coins were probably included, both for the Mint Cabinet and for presentation pieces to officials.

A second possibility is that those collectors clamoring for examples of the 1876-CC twenty cent centennial coin might have been able to strike deals with a mint employee in a few cases, perhaps receiving one or more pieces in exchange for a like number of uncirculated 1875-CC coins plus other considerations. However, if we assume that the 10,000 1876-CC coins were contained in a sealed oak keg (115 pounds - gross weight) within the vault, removing a few coins without leaving telltale traces on the container would have been well nigh impossible, and this would have discouraged such plans.

An equally remote possibility is that an employee might have withdrawn 15 or 20 of the 1876-CC coins during the minting operation, possibly substituting new 1875-CC counterparts for them to change the offense from a penal to a civil one, if he were to be caught. Arguing against this is the fact that the employees would have regarded the 1876-CC as "just another coin" at the time of minting. They could not have guessed that virtually all of them were destined to be melted about a year later. There would have been no justification for accepting the risks involved.

Now we come to the fourth possibility, and perhaps the most attractive. It suggests that one or more employees at the mint saved out a small number of the 1876-CC coins for their private purposes at the time of melting, instead of destroying each and every one. They would have recognized the rarity situation by that time, or they might simply have wanted to possess a souvenir of a coin that was thought to no longer exist. It was a fairly common practice to have a final recount of coins before melting them, and this would have increased the possibility that the involved employees would have substituted bright and shiney 1875-CC coins for any that they withdrew. Even if they did not, the absence of two or three Troy ounces of silver alloy in a lot amounting to about 1,607 Troy ounces would have never been detected as an unusual occurrence.

The fifth and final possibility is that the 1876-CC coins were made as unofficial restrikes. The six obverse and four reverse dies were available at the mint until destroyed on 20-JAN-1877 in the presence of Superintendent James Crawford. This meant they were stored at the mint for over eight months after the 10,000 twenty cent pieces were struck. Taxay, in the **Catalogue & Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins** (1976) lists a unique 1876-CC copper twenty cent piece, unverified, as an unofficial mint restrike. Could silvers have been made at the same time?

Probably not. The copper piece, if it exists, may have been struck to test the 1876-CC die combination. Such operations were often not recorded. In

fact, at the Carson City Mint there is not even a record of any authorization to strike the 10,000 silver 1876-CC coins; a circumstance that has led Walter Thompson and several other experts to wonder if the entire minting might not have been a mistake in the first place.

The idea of unofficial 1876-CC restrikes can be heavily discounted. There would have been no rationale for taking the risks involved if the mint employees thought that the regular issue would eventually be disbursed into the marketplace. But the main problem would have been that silver planchets of the required twenty cent piece size would have been very hard to make or obtain after all production of this coin had ceased — plus the fact that a clandestine restriking of these coins would have been an operation so fraught with the danger of discovery and punishment that it would not have been considered acceptable on a risk/benefit basis.

Thus, it seems that the fourth possibility is the most likely one: that not all the 1876-CC twenty cent pieces were melted; some were pocketed by one or more mint employees at the time, who probably replaced them with new 1875-CC counterparts. Perhaps only in the numismatic area could an iniquitous act of a few minutes duration result in the creation of a commodity of incredible rarity, valued at millions of dollars. This is but one of the many fascinating aspects of the hobby.

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The Exceptionally Rare 1874-CC Dime

by

John W. McCloskey

In recent years the 1874-CC dime has come to be recognized as the key date in the Seated dime series and has become a prized rarity for the dime specialist. The date is very seldom seen at Coin Shows or Numismatic Conventions and is frequently missing from major sales of Seated dimes. A review of the major auction catalogues reveals just how rare the date is and how difficult it is to find in high grade. A specimen described as Brilliant Uncirculated was sold by Stack's (Lot #725) in their R.L. Miles Jr. sale on April 11, 1969. In the catalogue the piece is described as "Brilliant Uncirculated. Obverse with proof-like surface, and some proof-like surface on the reverse. A comparable specimen offered for sale at our Anderson Dupont Sale in 1954 where it realized $950. Other than the Empire coin, sold by us in 1957, no other example in like condition has been offered for sale." Another reference to a mint state specimen can be found in the catalogue of the World's Greatest Collection sold by Numismatic Gallery in 1945. Lot #797 in the dime section of the sale describes the 1874-CC as "A beautiful uncirculated coin. Very Rare."

A few high grade circulated specimens have been offered at auction in recent years but even these specimens have been infrequently seen. Stack's offered a specimen described as Extremely Fine (Lot #612) in their

Nate Smith sale on March 2, 1973. In this sale the specimen is described as "One of the best offered for sale in the past couple of decades." Another specimen described as Extremely Fine was also sold by Stack's in their William Fenn III sale (Lot #415) on October 9, 1976.

Bowers and Ruddy Galleries sold a specimen described as Very Fine as part of the E.A. Carson Collection of Carson City coins (Lot #65) in their sale of June 24, 1976. A notation in their catalogue indicates that this is the piece from The Century Sale (Lot #683) sold by Paramount International Coin Corporation on April 30, 1965. Bowers and Ruddy Galleries sold another specimen described as Very Fine in their sale of October 2, 1976 (Lot #1673). Another specimen described as Very Fine was sold by Bowers and Ruddy in their sale of the Fairfield collection (Lot #368) on October 6, 1977. The Superior Galleries sale of October 1, 1973 has a piece described as About Extra Fine (Lot #428). The 1874-CC dime has not often come up in an ANA sale but a piece described as Very Good was sold by RARCOA (Lot #429) in the General Miles S. Newton Collection at the 1970 ANA Sale in St. Louis, Missouri on August 19, 1970.

With high grade specimens of the 1874-CC dime in short supply it is indeed a rare privilege to examine a specimen that has not been subjected to extensive circulation in the early West. I unexpectedly had the opportunity to study just such a near mint state specimen recently purchased by Dale Williams of Williams Gallery of Rare Coins in Dayton, Ohio.

The 1874-CC dime owned by Williams is a beautifully toned About Uncirculated specimen with varying shades of golden patina running through the obverse field. The specimen shows an unexpectedly strong strike with full face and hair detail and a strong complete left shoulder clasp. The obverse fields are smooth and clear with the date, arrows and lettering in UNITED STATES OF AMERICA bold and sharp. There is evidence of die roughness through the obverse design, mostly in the area of the obverse shield but also extending out through the gown in some areas. This particular specimen shows minor traces of wear on the high points in the hair, face, arms and thighs but the specimen exhibits a complete set of die characteristics. As such, a specimen in this unusually high grade reveals many die secrets that are impossible to observe from the examination of an average circulated piece.

Several obverse die defects are worthy of note. There is a raised die line, the result of a scratch on the die, that runs from the base of the gown into the rock over the digit 4 in the date. Another line runs from the heel of the foot also down into the base of the rock. Another can be seen running from the right edge of the shield over the ribbon through one fold of drapery. Evidence of a die crack can be seen running through the horizontal stripes in the obverse shield, down through the two middle vertical stripes over the ribbon, through the center of the letter R in LIBERTY, down through the two vertical stripes below the letter R and to the edge of the shield just left of the shield point. There is a very weak crack connecting the letters RICA at the top but this defect is too weak to be seen on all but a choice specimen.

The reverse shows the expected die characteristics but also reveals many delicate features not commonly seen on a circulated specimen. The characteristic die crack that runs from the right ribbon through the Carson City mint mark is bold and clear. This die crack is visible on all genuine 1874-CC dimes and is pictured on page 13 of this issue. It is interesting to note however that even in this high grade the die crack appears to fade away in the field and never reaches the denticles below and to the left of the mintmark. On the right the crack runs up through the right ribbon and on into the wreath. Another crack runs from the rim at 3 o'clock through the corn tassel, through the corn kernels and husk and on into the leaves. At 12 o'clock a crack runs from the rim into the cereal grains and on down into the leaves on the left. A final crack joins the two outer leaves in the wreath at 9 o'clock. All of these cracks have been seen on 1873-CC specimens indicating that all genuine 1874-CC dimes will possess this die damage on the reverse.

Along the edge the specimen possesses that characteristic wide reeding seen on Carson City dimes of this period. There are 89 reeds, many fewer than on Philadelphia and San Francisco pieces of the same date. The reeding is unusually bold and demonstrates why the reeding is still sharp on even well worn pieces of this date.

The information in this article has been presented to help the collector identify the die characteristics of genuine 1874-CC dimes. The examination of a high grade specimen provides an opportunity to catalogue delicate die features that are likely to go undetected or unrecognized in the presence of a variety of nicks, scratches and abrasions that result from normal usage in circulation. Yet when one knows what to look for and where a die defect has been observed, seemingly meaningless marks take shape and are recognized as key die characteristics.

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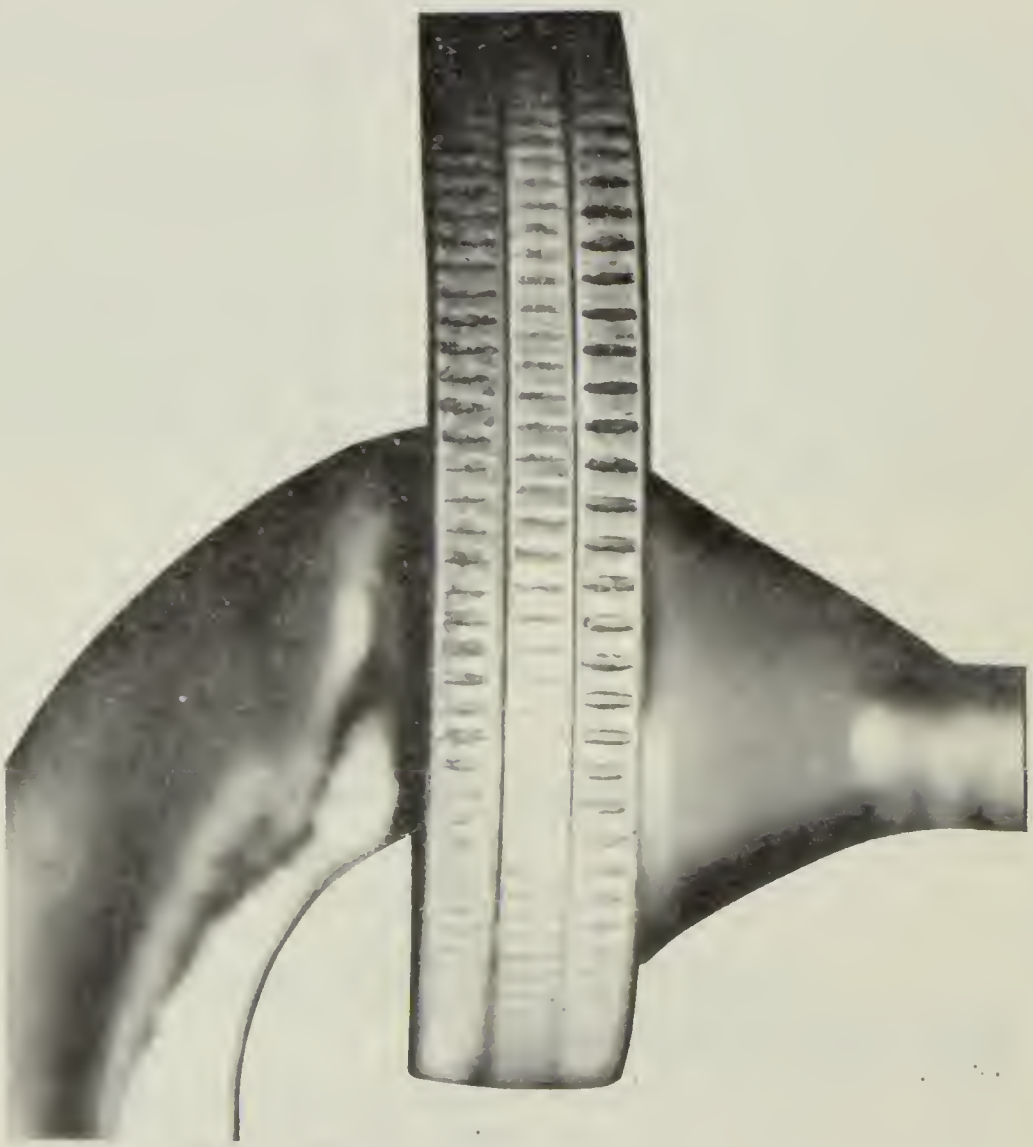
Study Reeding on Early Carson City Dimes

by

Kamal M. Ahwash

There have been many altered dates and added mintmarks on the early Carson City dimes, namely on the 1871-CC, 1872-CC, 1873-CC Without Arrows and 1874-CC With Arrows dates. However, one diagnostic feature in these four dates from the Carson City mint that cannot be changed from the original is the reeding. (The notched area surrounding the outside edge of the coin). This is the only part of the coin that I believe cannot be altered in any way.

The reeding on the Carson City dimes is noticeably wider (more separated) than that on the Liberty Seated dimes from the Philadelphia or San Francisco mints. This method of detection is simple to use. When a collector is doubtful about a Carson City dime (1871-CC through 1874-CC)

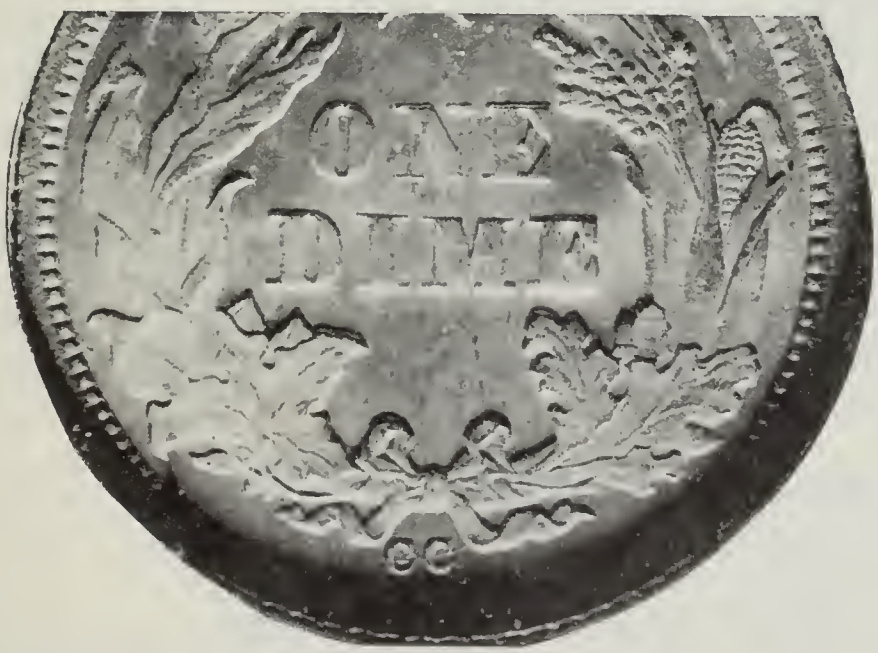


Dime reeding, from left to right
the 1874-P, 1874-S and 1874-CC

all he has to do is place it next to a Seated dime from the Philadelphia or San Francisco mint and he can readily see the difference in the reeding. The Carson City reeding will be much wider as illustrated in the picture.

Another point to note is that the Carson City dimes (1871-CC through 1874-CC) have exactly the same number of reeds, since the same collar was used in striking all four dates. No other Liberty Seated dimes from the Philadelphia or San Francisco mints used this collar or had reeding like these four Carson City dates. Consequently, you check an 1871-CC dime against an 1872-CC, 1873-CC or 1874-CC and the reeding will be exactly alike. If the reeding on a suspect coin doesn't match, then it is not genuine. One more way to identify the genuine Carson City dimes of these four years is by size and placement of the mintmark. The mintmarks are all the same size and in the same position because all of the reverses came from the same die. All 1873-CC and 1874-CC dimes have the same diagnostic die break running from the right ribbon (going left to the center of the right C, then the center of the left C into the field under the left ribbon). Consequently, if anyone has a Carson City dime that differs in any way from the above, it is not genuine. The photo shows the 1873-CC No Arrows dime with the diagnostic die crack through the mintmark.

In summing up this information, if someone offers you a Carson City dime (1871-CC through 1874-CC) just ask for a Seated dime from the Philadelphia or San Francisco mint and place it side by side with the Carson City coin. If the Carson City dime does not have a much wider reeding, then it is not genuine. If you have any further doubts, or cannot make the comparison, send the coin to the American Numismatic Association Certification Service, 818 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903.



The reverse of the 1873-CC No Arrows dime showing the diagnostic die break running from the right ribbon through the CC mintmark.

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LSCC Half Dollar Census

Liberty Seated Half Dollar census information was collected during the months from May through September 1980. In the final tabulation, 61 members (over 22% of the total LSCC membership) reported in excess of 3000 half dollars.

Readers should be aware that a large percentage of members indicated that they were not sure if they had correctly identified their varieties, and for that reason, some errors may exist in the variety breakdown of various dates. I appreciate the help of the LSCC membership in compiling this census, and I look forward to following up on some of the invitations for continuing correspondence. I will try to evaluate these census figures later this year and report in a subsequent issue.

Randy Wiley
LSCC #251

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLARS

DATE		GRADE AG	G-VG	F-VF	XF-AU	UNC	PROOF
1839	NO DRAPERY		4	9	6	4	
1839	drapery		2	8	14	1	
1840			4	7	12	1	
1840	DOUB DATE		2	1	4	1	
1840	REV. 1838		5	2	5	3	
18400	LARGE O	1	4	6	9	1	
18400	SMALL O		3	4	4		
18400	V SMALL O	1		1	5	1	
1841			3	5	9	2	
1841	recut 1				5		
18410	LARGE O	1	2	7	5	2	
18410	MEDIUM O		4	5	5	1	
1842	SM DATE		7	1	11	2	
1842	LG DATE		6	5	10	2	
1842	DOUB DATE		1	1	5		
1842	TRIP DATE						

DATE		GRADE AG	G-VG	F-VF	XF-AU	UNC	PROOF
18420	SM DATE		3	4	5		
18420	LG DATE		5	7	10		
1843			6	5	15	5	
18430			8	10	10	2	
18430	RECUT 18			1	2		
1844			5	2	15		
1844	RECUT 44			1	2		
18440			8	10	10	3	
18440	RECUT 44		1	1	2		
18440	DOUB DATE		4	2	4		
1845		1	8	4	13	1	
18450		2	11	5	19	3	
18450	DOUB DATE		2	4	6		
18450	TRIP DATE				1		
1846	SM DATE		2	6	10	2	1
1846/5	SM DATE				2		
1846/H6	SM DATE		3	1	3	1	

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLARS

DATE	AG	G-VG	F-VF	XF-AU	UNC	PROOF
1846 TALL DATE		3	4	10	1	
1846 TD SPIKED 4			1	1	1	
18460 SM DATE	1	9	2	10		
18460 SD RECUT		2	1	4	1	
18460 SD 6/5				2		
18460 TALL DATE	1	8	4	7	1	
1847		7	2	10	2	
1847 RECUT DATE						
1847/6				1	1	
18470	1	8	6	10	3	
18470 DOUB DATE				1	1	
1848		9	5	11	2	
1848 RECUT 18		2	1	3		
18480 OPEN 4		6	2	5	1	
18480 CLOSED 4		2		3		
1849		7	2	12		
1849/1849 RC RT			2	1		
1849/1849 RC HIGH		2	1			
18490		4	6	10		
1850 OPEN 5		1	1	10		
1850 CLOSED 5		3	3	1	1	
18500 OPEN 5		6	4	9	1	
18500 CLOSED 5			2			
1851		2	1	9	1	
1851 RECUT DATE					1	
18510		4	6	10	3	
1852		2	4	7	2	
1852 RECUT 2					1	
18520		4	3	8	2	
18520 RECUT DATE		1				
1853$_O$ NO ARROWS						
1853 ARROWS	3	23	9	14	4	
1853 DOUB DATE					1	
18530		9	8	9		
18530 DOUB DATE		3	1	3	1	
1854		10	5	11	3	
1854 DOUB DATE		2		1		
1854 TRIP DATE						
18540		10	7	10	1	
18540 DOUB DATE		5	2	8	2	
1855		3	9	8	1	1
1855 OVER 854			2	6		

DATE	AG	G-VG	F-VF	XF-AU	UNC	PROOF
18550	1	13	9	9	2	
18550 DOUB DATE		1	2	3		
18550 RECUT O				1		
1855S LARGE S	1	7	7	4	2	
1856		5	8	9	2	2
18560	2	5	7	15	2	
18560 DOUB DATE		1	1	6		
1856S LARGE S		10	4	6	1	
1856S NO DRAPERY		1	1			
1857	1	6	11	16	1	1
18570	2	9	10	9	4	
18570 RECUT DATE				1		
1857S LARGE S		5	1	3		
1857S MEDIUM S		5	5	9	1	
1858 TYPE I REV	2	8	8	11	2	1
1858 TYPE II		1	1	5	1	
18580	4	14	9	16	1	
18580 RECUT DATE	1	1	2	1		
1858S LARGE S	1	3	7	12		
1858S MEDIUM S	1	4	4	9	1	
1859 TYPE I		4	5	8	2	1
1859 TYPE II		1		4	1	
18590 I ONLY ?	2	9	10	14	2	
1859S LARGE S	1	5	7	4	2	
1859S MEDIUM S		1	4	7	1	
1860		10	5	16	5	1
18600 TYPE I		2	6	7		
18600 TYPE II	1	1	5	4	1	
1860S LARGE S		3	2	6	2	
1860S MEDIUM S		4	4	5	2	
1861		6	8	18	2	1
18610 TYPE I	1	4	1	9		
18610 TYPE II	1	2	6	6	1	
18610 CSA OBV				1	1	
1861S LARGE S	1	3	4	5	2	
1861S MEDIUM S		2		5	2	
1862	1	5	7	9	4	1
1862S LARGE S		7	5	7	1	
1862S MEDIUM S		1	7	7		
1862S SM S BKN		1	4	4		
1863		5	6	10	2	2
1863S SM S BKN		1	1	10	1	
1863S SMALL S		4	6	3	2	

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLARS

DATE		GRADE AG	G-VG	F-VF	XF-AU	UNC	PROOF
1864			4	9	14	2	2
1864S	LARGE S		4	6	6		
1864S	SMALL S			1	1		
1864S	SM S BKN	1	5	4	5	1	
1864S	SM THIN S		1	1			
1865			9	5	14	3	2
1865S	SM S BKN		4	2	5	1	
1865S	SM THIN S		8	4	10	1	
1866		1	9	10	15	3	2
1866S	NO MOTTO		7	12	7	2	
1866S	MOTTO VS S	1	7	4	11	1	
1867		2	10	7	8	1	4
1867S	V SMALL S	1	9	7	11	1	
1868			8	8	11	3	1
1868S	V SMALL S		7	7	12	1	
1869			7	5	13	1	1
1869S	V SMALL S	1	6	6	15	2	
1870			8	3	9	3	1
1870S	V SMALL S		7	8	10	2	
1870CC	LARGE CC	1	5	5	1	1	
1871			6	6	15		1
1871S	SMALL S		4	6	9	1	
1871S	V SMALL S	1	2	3	10		
1871CC	LARGE CC	2	9	7	4	2	
1872			5	5	8	1	3
1872S	MED-SM S		7	3	7	2	
1872S	SMALL S			1	4		
1872CC	LARGE CC	1	11	6	9	1	
1873	NA OPEN 3		1		2	1	
1873	NA CLSD 3		6	8	7	2	2
1873CC	NA SM CC	1	10	7	4	2	
1873S	NA UNKNOWN						
1873	LG ARROWS	1	6	5	8	1	2
1873	SM ARROWS	1	7		2	1	
1873	4 STRIPES		5	2	2		
1873S	WA X SM S		9	3	10	1	
1873CC	WA LG CC		3		5	1	
1873CC	WA SM CC		5	4	6	1	
1874		4	8	13	11	3	2
1874S	MED-SM S	1	6	3	3	1	
1874S	SMALL S	2	4	1	5		
1874S	EX SMALL S			2	1		
1874CC	SMALL CC	2	7	3	7	1	

DATE		GRADE AG	G-VG	F-VF	XF-AU	UNC	PROOF
1874CC	OTHER CC?						
1875		1	7	7	11	3	1
1875S	MED-SM S	1	1	7	7		
1875S	SMALL S		2		3	2	
1875S	V SMALL S	2	6	2	6		
1875CC	MEDIUM CC		9	9	8	2	
1875CC	SMALL CC		1		2		
1876	TYPE I	4	4	7	8	7	1
1876	TYPE II		2	1	5		
1876S	I V SM S	1	4	4	8	1	
1876S	I MICRO S		3	1	1		
1876S	II V SM S		2	2	3	1	
1876S	II MICRO S						
1876CC	I LG CC			1	2	1	1
1876CC	I MED CC	1	5	2	4	1	
1876CC	I SM CC	1	2	3	5	1	
1876CC	II ANY?		1		1		
1877	TYPE I	2	4	2	3		1
1877	TYPE II	2	4	4	6		1
1877S	I V SM S		2	5	11	3	
1877S	I MICRO S		4	1	3	2	
1877S	II V SM S		4	3	3		
1877S	II MICRO S		2				
1877CC	I SM CC		6		4	1	
1877CC	I MED CC		1	1	2		
1877CC	II MED CC		5	1	6	3	
1877CC	II SM CC		1		2		
1878			11	4	6	2	1
1878S	V SMALL S		1		3	1	1
1878CC	MEDIUM CC	2	7	4	2	3	
1879			2	3	5	4	3
1880			4	5	6	1	1
1881			2	2	8	1	3
1882		1	1	2	7	2	2
1883			2	2	6	2	4
1884			2	3	6	3	3
1885			1	5	6	2	3
1886			3	6	7	1	2
1887			3	4	4	1	3
1888			3	5	6	1	2
1889			3	3	6	1	2
1890		1	2	4	9	1	2
1891			7	7	11	1	1

JAMES BENNETT PRYOR
ANA 75372 — LSCC #36
Macedonia Road, P.O. Box 469
Mayfield, Kentucky 42066
Day AC 502-247-5816
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Two week return privilege for any or no reason. Inquiries and correspondence invited from serious half-dollar collectors. Certainly, if you are interested in any of my coins, there will be NO grading problem or problem coins; only the price. Trades will be considered.

1843-P 10¢ Fine 15, not cleaned, perfect for the grade **$8.00**

1876-CC 25¢ VF 20 (or better) not cleaned, perfect for grade **$29.00**

1846/6 Horizontal 50¢ Condition census AU 55 + ... **$750.00**
I know of only 1 in better condition, though several about like this one. Cleaned (as usual) many years ago, now gold and rose toned, no problems otherwise. Very rare in this grade — and bought as 'choice BU' a long time ago.

1852-0 50¢ AU 55 ..... **$900.00**
Ex Stack's Reed Hawn Auction, Lot #177, 8/73 (envelope enclosed) as "Brilliant Uncirculated, some proof-like surface. Deep russet toning. Really quite scarce in Mint State." I agree with these comments (except the grade). Actually, the rarest date 'o' mint half-dollar, particularly in this grade or better.

1854-0 50¢ Arrows. Cleaned AU 55 ..... **$225.00**
Ex. Bowers & Ruddy AAA Terrell Auction, Lot#716, as "Uncirculated, arrows and date recut" May, 1973

1857-P AU 55 + **50¢** **$1000.00**
Ex Bowers & Ruddy AAA Terrell Auction, Lot #719 (envelope enclosed) as "Choice Brilliant Uncirculated" Beautiful golden original toning, and no problems. Just a tiny 'touch' of the (usual) friction on knee. Certainly, equal to the commercial choice BU as originally graded. NOT as scarce as the 1856-P.

1859-0 MS 60 or a little better **50¢** **$2750.00**
Not cleaned, original lustre & toning, Full Strike. I grade this one MS 60 + obverse, MS 60 reverse. Not a rare date, but again a very nice coin and a commercial 'choice BU'!

1866-S No Motto 50¢ AU 50 to 55. ..... **$1500.00**
Ex Bowers & Ruddy AAA Terrell Auction, Lot #540 (envelope enclosed) as "WITHOUT MOTTO. Earlier style. BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED with a few bagmarks. One of the top two or three finest we have ever handled of this rare, rare variety. Pieces such as this appear for sale only when great collections are marketed. An opportunity such as this may not recur for a long, long time." Doubtful if more than 6 or 8 better ones are extant. Dull toned (typical for this date & mint), but original not cleaned & no problems. RARE.

1871-CC 50¢ AU 55, Prooflike **$3500.00**
Ex Bowers & Ruddy AAA Terrell Auction, Lot #552 (envelope enclosed) as "Choice Brilliant Uncirculated. Prooflike Obverse. . . .opportunity to acquire a coin which is the 'rarest of the rare', the top of the line. etc. etc." Condition census. Fully Struck, cleaned years ago, now nicely toned. One of the rarest of all Seated Halves in this grade.

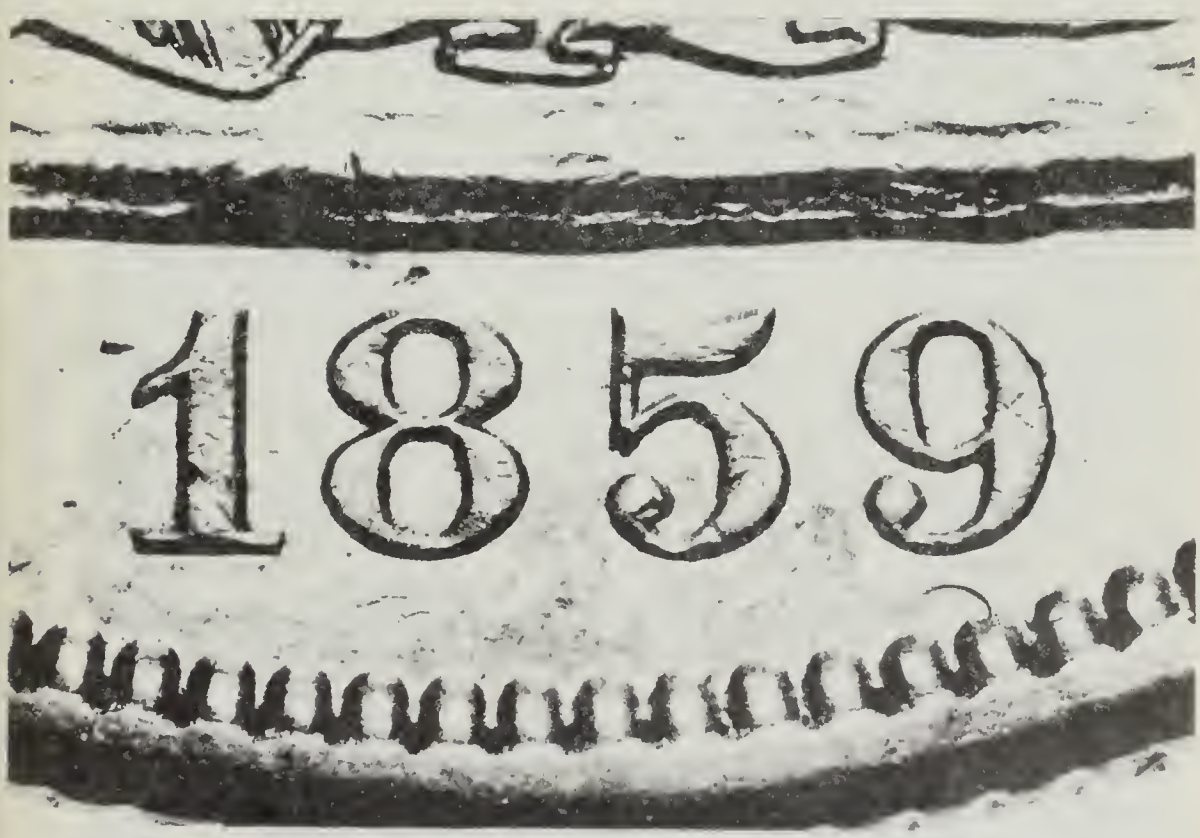
1873 No Arrows "OPEN 3" AU 55 **50¢**. **$20,000.00**
Authenticated by Harry Boosel, Mr. "1873". Only the non-collectable 1853-0 No Arrows, No Rays 50¢ is rarer than this Seated Half-Dollar! This is the 3rd finest of the 10 now known. Not cleaned, original golden, rose color and lustrous. Probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The only recorded sale of this rarity since Mr. Boosel's personal example in 1973, was a VF earlier this year @ $6,200.

I am interested in buying all half-dollars and particularly Seated Halves in high grade, either singles, partsets or whatever. I grade SELLING like I do BUYING — CONSERVATIVELY. Ref. Kam Ahwash, or write or call me.

An 1859-O Half With Repunched Date

Shown below is a picture of the obverse date area of an 1859-O half dollar sent in by James Fairfield of Art Coins in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In the course of preparing new purchases for resale Jim noticed that this piece showed an unusual die defect below the digit 9 in the date. The defect appears to be the remains of an earlier 9 punch that runs from below the 9 in the date and down into the denticles. The error is really quite spectacular due to the fact that the earlier punch is clearly defined and reaches well into the denticles.

Another interesting feature of this coin is the die defect that appears just above the upper serif of the digit 1 in the date. Is it possible that this defect is the remains of a 1 punch that was created when an 1859 date was punched into the die at a sharply sloping angle reaching down into the denticles? The variety is not mentioned in the Beistle reference on half dollar varieties. Have any other club members ever encountered the variety or ever heard of a similar piece?



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A Die Gouged 1877-CC Dime

by

John McCloskey

The discussion of die gouged coins in recent issues of the Journal has led to the study of an 1877-CC dime with a strong die gouge running through the obverse shield. This variety was brought to my attention several months ago by Chuck Leber who indicated that he owned such a piece and that it was not listed in the Liberty Seated reference book by Kam Ahwash. I studied his description carefully and proceeded to the bank vault where I keep my collection and discovered that I too owned a piece which matched his description. I had either not noticed the die gouge previously or had considered it unimportant when I purchased the coin many years ago. With the die characteristics carefully noted I decided to look for a duplicate piece while I attended the Indiana State convention in May. I examined many different coins at the convention and was fortunate enough to find a piece with the identical die gouge as that on the piece I already owned. Only after I purchased the coin did I notice an even more remarkable fact.

1877-CC Dime with Die Gouge through Shield.

The duplicate piece that I had purchased was not a duplicate at all. The obverses were in fact identical but I discovered that the reverse dies of the two pieces were noticeably different. We now had a die gouged obverse paired with two different reverses. The purpose of this article is to describe the characteristics of the die gouged 1877-CC dime and to identify the two different reverse dies used with this obverse.

OBVERSE

The digit 1 in the date measures 0.3 mm below the base of the rock and the left tip of the digit is below the 7th stripe in the obverse shield, the stripes below the ribbon being numbered from 1 to 10 starting on the left. The inner loops of the digit 8 are centered over a denticle and the second 7 in the date is centered over the space between two denticles. The digit 1 in the date has been repunched, the remains of the earlier punch still visible over the base of the present digit. A strong die gouge runs from the 7th stripe in the shield below the letter R in LIBERTY, sloping down through the first six stripes and out into the rock to the left of the shield. Another die scratch runs through the letter R in LIBERTY and out into the shield below the ribbon to the right of the 8th stripe. There is also a circular die defect 0.5 mm to the left of the area where the pole falls behind the leg of the Seated figure. Finally, there are a few light scratches over the letters CA in AMERICA that diminish through the life of the obverse die.

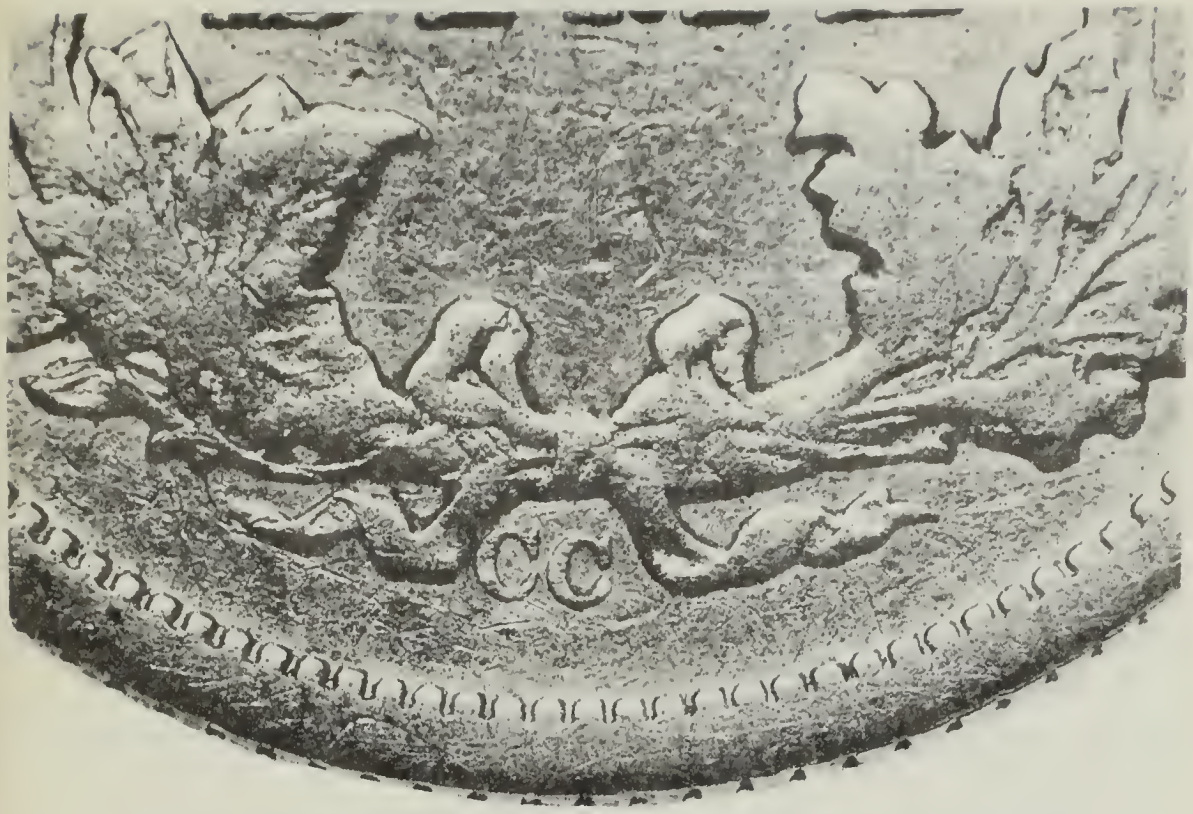
REVERSE A

Small cc mintmark located high up near the bow. Both c's measure 0.7 mm tall and 0.6 mm wide, the two c's less than 0.1 mm apart. The left c nearly touches the left ribbon while the right c is almost 0.2 mm from the right ribbon. The variety was struck from the Type 2 reverse hub with the pointed left ribbon end below the bow. This variety is not listed in the Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Dimes by Kam Ahwash.

REVERSE B

Small cc mintmark centered in the space between the bow and denticles. Both c's measure 0.7 mm tall and 0.6 mm wide, the two c's 0.2 mm distant. The left c measures 0.1 mm from the left ribbon while the right c is almost 0.2 mm from the right ribbon. A die crack runs from the left c through the left ribbon, another from the right c through the right ribbon. Additional cracks can be seen running through the leaves at several places around the wreath. The variety was struck from the Type 2 reverse hub with the pointed left ribbon end below the bow. This variety is listed by Kam Ahwash as A-9 in his Encyclopedia.

The die gouged 1877-CC dime is certainly an interesting and unusual variety in the Seated dime series. However, with so little experience with the damaged obverse die, it is impossible to estimate rarity for the variety or to speculate as to which of the two reverses will prove to be the more difficult to find paired with the damaged obverse. We can only keep our eyes open at conventions and auctions and see how quickly others become available. The pictures of the 1877-CC dimes were taken by Tom Mulvaney at Paramount International Coin Corp.



1877-CC Dime, Reverse A with Small cc mintmark.

1877-CC Dime, Reverse B with Small cc mintmark.

Results of Survey to Determine Collector Interest

This past summer each club member was sent a survey form in which he was asked to rank fourteen topics in order of preference as subjects for articles in the Journal. A total of 70 club members responded to the survey, 60 of these listing the topics in rank order from 1 to 14 as instructed. The average rank of each topic was calculated and the topics listed in rank order are as follows:

1. Articles listing the dates in a given series by rarity.
2. Articles describing the relative rarity of a specific date by grade.
3. Articles describing fake pieces that have been uncovered by club members.
4. Information identifying the die characteristics of a specific rare date for authentication purposes.
5. Studies of a given date by examining auction records and frequency of availability in coin publications.
6. Articles identifying the different die varieties of a specific date.
7. Articles distinguishing proofs from business strikes of a specific date.
8. Articles describing new varieties with recut dates, recut mintmarks or other unusual characteristics.
9. Articles identifying different mintmark sizes for a given date.
10. Listing of the owners, condition and pedigree of the known specimens of a particularly rare date.
11. Historical articles describing the economic and financial conditions of the 19th century that led to the coinage system of the period.
12. Identification of the different hubs used in a series and the listing of the dates for which these hub varieties exist.
13. Articles describing errors such as off center strikes, rotated reverse errors and other oddities.
14. Articles describing some of the patterns of the Seated type that were produced during the 19th century.

The results of the survey reflect the varying interests of club members but the information does seem to fit into a detectable pattern. Topics ranked 1, 2 and 5 all relate to rarity and availability, information important to every collector as he attempts to build a collection and make sound judgments on new purchases. Topics ranked 3 and 4 provide information to help the collector authenticate a specific rare date and warn him to be careful not to

Summary of Responses for 60 Members

Rank of Topic	Average Rank	Frequency 1st or 2nd Choice	Frequency 13th or 14th Choice
1	3.77	25	0
2	4.63	12	0
3	5.47	15	1
4	5.68	13	1
5	6.65	11	5
6	7.00	7	4
7	7.28	7	8
8	7.35	10	6
9	7.87	4	7
10	9.23	3	18
11	9.58	7	22
12	9.97	2	11
13	9.98	3	14
14	10.65	1	23

purchase altered pieces. Topics ranked 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 all pertain to information needed to identify the different dies for pieces of the same date. This information is of particular interest to the variety collector since very little work on die characteristics is currently available to the Seated specialist. However, many collectors find the attention to minute detail too tedious for their interests and would thus not find this information directly applicable to them. Topics ranked 10, 11, 13 and 14 represent specialty items and such articles would not contain information that would relate directly to the collecting interests of most individuals.

In summary, club members seem to be ranking the topics according to their own personal interests. They will rank those topics high which provide information needed to determine value and scarcity for items which they own or hope to purchase. However, the club recognizes the varying interests of individual members and will attempt to present information on a variety of topics in future issues.

It is hoped that the results of this survey will encourage members to contribute information to the Journal. It appears that rarity is the most important concern to the membership at large. We all have our favorite dates and varieties and have spent time searching for them at shows and auctions.

Concentration of our efforts on specific dates gives us experience in rarity determination which is not generally known to the numismatic public. I would like to encourage club members to share these experiences with others so that we can all better understand the rarity and availability of dates within a given series. Studies of availability through Coin World advertising or through auction catalogues is a possible source of information for many club members. All that is needed is a little time devoted to the collecting and analysis of the data.

I also recommend that the collector take a little time to study the pieces in his collection. It is amazing what you can find with a little patience and a little attention to detail. There are many unreported pieces with repunched dates and characteristic die cracks that would help authenticate specific dates. Countless lumps, die scratches, defects and cracks could be reported and added to our knowledge of Seated coinage.

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The survey also included a line asking individuals to suggest topics on which they would like to see information printed. A number of very interesting and valuable suggestions were made as a result of this opportunity. The list of suggested topics is as follows: 1) Availability of circulated pieces of given better dates; 2) History and provenance on all the known major rarities — for example the 1873-CC No Arrows dime; 3) Short biography on the life of Christian Gobrecht; 4) A good treatise on grading of all Liberty Seated coinage; 5) More articles on the Seated Dollar series; 6) Why are there so few 1879, 1880 and 1881 dimes? 7) Survey of the number of complete sets of each series which have been put together; 8) Listing of dates that have been hoarded by the government or individuals; 9) How are collectors of circulated coins storing them? 10) Estimated quantities extant of rarer dates; 11) Return of Kam's Korner format with him or another expert; 12) Articles describing various sleepers in circulated grades in each series; 13) Survival of rare dates by grade; 14) Short affordable sets within the Liberty Seated Series — for example San Francisco half dimes, complete year sets, etc.; 15) Information on the 1847/6 half.

Individuals with information or opinions on these or other topics relating to coinage are encouraged to contribute to the Journal so that we can all learn more about these 19th Century Silver pieces. The Journal is intended to be a publication dedicated to the distribution of material and information on the Seated series collected and prepared by club members. Indeed, the Journal could be considered a reflection of the interests and persuits of LSCC members.

The Editor

- WANTED -

Liberty Seated Dollars

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314-364-5095 *evenings*
MEMBER ANA — LSCC

At The ANA, Cincinnati 1980

There seems to be little doubt that prices for circulated Seated coins have increased sharply during the past year. These sharp price increases however seem to have been accompanied by an increased availability of many of the rare dates. I was, in fact, surprised to find many rare dates at the convention in Cincinnati that have not been available at recent ANA conventions. For example I saw a nice circulated 1864 half dime, a circulated 1866 half dime and two nice 1853-O No Arrows half dimes. There were three 1860-0 dimes, two 1871-CC dimes, three 1872-CC dimes, two 1873-CC dimes and a beautiful XF 1885-S dime. In the quarter series I saw a nice 1842-0 Small Date, an average circulated 1849-0, a beautiful 1851-0, a nice 1864-S, an average grade 1869, two 1870-CC pieces, a nice 1871-CC and an 1873-CC. The scarce half dollars were available after being noticeably absent at recent ANA conventions. I saw two 1842-0 Small Date halves, two 1855-S halves, three 1870-CC halves and two 1878-S halves, one a nice VF. In the dollar series I saw an 1852, an 1858, two nice 1871-CC pieces and a high grade 1872-CC. I know that several of these pieces were purchased on the floor by members of LSCC, with other pieces likely purchased by club members without my knowledge.

This convention was not without the presence of some deceptive pieces. I saw an 1866-S dime with a removed mintmark that looked very much like the rare 1866 and an 1872-CC dime with an added mintmark that would fool many collectors without adequate knowledge of the die work of early Carson City dimes. The 1872-CC dime had the wrong date placement, the wrong mintmark placement, a long die crack on the reverse that does not appear on genuine specimens and the wrong reeding.

The major topic of interest during the LSCC meeting at the ANA was the discussion of plans to reprint the articles in the first 18 issues of the Journal into a hard bound book on Liberty Seated coinage. To date the articles have been structured into a 400 page manuscript with the articles ordered by denomination and date. An introduction for the manuscript has been written and the plates from the previous issues are now being organized for the printing process. It is still difficult to predict when the books will be printed and how long it will take to have them bound and delivered. However, the club officers will provide an opportunity for each active club member to purchase a copy of this book at a prepublication discount. A notice of publication will be announced to club members as soon as the book becomes available. Cost of the book is still unknown but it is hoped that the club can recover its costs within a year of publication with sales of the book to the numismatic public.

On The Cover

The cover of this issue presents a picture of an 1837 dime in Proof condition, one of only 30 specimens struck on June 30, 1837. The picture was taken by Ed Fleischman at ANACS in Colorado Springs, Colorado and was presented to the club for use as the cover photo for this year. The No Stars design used to strike this coin is seen only on 1837 and 1838-0 specimens in the dime series, thirteen stars being added to the obverse field in 1838. The piece has what is known as a Large Date with the digits 37 having a flat top. The digit 1 is tall and slender and all four digits are about 1.3mm tall. This date punch is to be distinguished from the Small Date style also used on 1837 dimes that has a curved top to the last two digits and measures about 1.0mm tall. All known 1837 Proof dimes are of the Large Date variety. In his 1977 book on Proof coinage Walter Breen describes the 1837 Proof dime as follows: "Liberty Seated, No Stars. Gobrecht Design. Large Date, flat top to 3. Reverse. Faint die scratch through ES-0; spur from border over first T of STATES."

Kam Ahwash has indicated to me that possibly a dozen 1837 Proof dimes exist today with some severely impaired. Proof specimens have appeared at auction in recent years but examples are still very rarely seen. A few examples of recent appearances of this date in Proof condition are given below.

An example of the 1837 Liberty Seated dime in Proof condition sold in Stack's 1971 ANA Sale (Lot #654) in Washington D.C. on August 11, 1971. The lot is described as follows: "Brilliant Proof, pale iridescent toning. A superb example which could almost be called pristine. A few microscopic hairlines, hardly discernible, do not alter the beauty or the value of this rarity." The piece realized $1550 in this sale. The same coin sold in Stack's Reed Hawn Sale (Lot #699) on August 29, 1973 and this time sold for $2600. The specimen sold again in the 1974 GENA Sale (Lot #1297) on September 20, 1974 in New York City and brought $3500. This Great Eastern Numismatic Association Sale was catalogued and sold by Pine Tree Rare Coin Auction Sales. Superior Stamp and Coin Co. sold the Clarke Gilhousen specimen (Lot #319) in their sale on October 1, 1973. This specimen is described as a Peacock blue toned Proof with a few light field handling marks not disturbing the lovely colors. Other specimens have come up for sale at auction from time to time but all early Proof coins are extremely rare and bring premium prices, especially those that remain in choice condition after more than 100 years in the cabinets of collectors and dealers.

The Editor

Tenth 1873 No Arrows Open 3 Half Discovered

Pictured below is the 10th known specimen of the 1873 No Arrows Open 3 half dollar. This piece is owned by a Pennsylvania collector and was shown to Kam Ahwash as a result of the publicity that the club has given to the variety. Recent additions to the list of known examples have actually enhanced the value of the variety as a major rarity in the Seated half series. With ten specimens now known the 1873 No Arrows Open 3 variety has become a collectible variety in the series and a few examples of the variety have become available for purchase by the interested specialist. It is likely that several more examples of the variety will surface as a result of the recent publicity but demand for the variety is likely to remain high as more collectors attempt to add it to their collections.

Your comments on any of the articles, ads or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

John McCloskey
Editor, Gobrecht Journal
5718 King Arthur Drive
Kettering 45429

Letters To The Editor

I read with interest John McCloskey's article on 1840-O half dollar varieties. Scrutinizing my EF-45 specimen I found I have Variety 3 with slight variations. First of all, I might add that the listed multiple reverse die cracks are much lighter (finer) than I had expected and difficult to detect even with a 12 power glass. Anyway, my specimen does not have the die crack above STATES but interestingly enough, the second star on the obverse is so light that only a faint outline exists. All other stars are fully struck. I wonder if this might be an additional telltale sign of this Variety 3.

Bill Bugert
LSCC #455

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I'M A COLLECTOR☐ DEALER☐ COLLECTOR/DEALER☐

YOU MAY☐ MAY NOT☐
SEND MY NAME AND ADDRESS TO OTHER CLUB MEMBERS.

I COLLECT BY DATE SEATED HALF DIMES☐ DIMES☐
QUARTERS☐ HALF DOLLARS☐ DOLLARS☐ ALL SEATED☐

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Membership Fee - $9.00 for first year dues and initiation fee. Fill in the above and mail with $9.00 to:

James Skwarek • P.O. Box 21813
Tuckaway Station • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53221

Treasurer's Report

LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Beginning Balance	$53.11	
RECEIPTS:		
New Members	300.00	
Renewal Membership	1794.50	
Advertising	440.00	
Magazine Sales	129.91	
Donations	52.50	
Interest Income	48.33	2765.24
Total Available	$2818.35	
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Printing Expense	$1876.85	
Postage & Office Expenses	722.53	
ANA Membership	15.00	2614.38
Cash Balance - 8/5/80	$ 203.97	

I would like to thank the following members for the donations received during the past year:

Ed Leventhal #222
Bob Littlefield #463
Andrew Mesaros #249
Robert Rhue #355
James Dinsmore #325
William Lacey #400
D.M.X. Fretwell #229

That little extra support is most appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Skwarek
Sec./Treasurer LSCC

U. S. COINS
TOP QUALITY
TOP RARITY

BOUGHT AND SOLD

WRITE FOR QUOTES
COMMISSIONS EXECUTED
AT MOST
MAJOR AUCTIONS – 5% FEE

JULIAN LEIDMAN

8439 GEORGIA AVE.
SILVER SPRING, MD. 20910
TEL. 301 - 585-8467

"SPECIALIZING"
IN
LIBERTY SEATED
HALF-DIMES
DIMES
QUARTERS

BY DATE, VARIETY & GRADE

Want Lists Solicited.
Buying all "Rare Coins" in my field.
Call, write or send for realistic offer.

KAMAL M. AHWASH

"Knowledge Through Research"

Numismatist

LM-ANA-1541

PNG-ANS-LSCC-PAST-PRES

1-(215)872-4936

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